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ABSTRACT

State legislation in Indiana requires that at least 30 semester hours of comparable general education courses fulfilling graduation requirements be available at and transferable among all state postsecondary educational institutions. A February 1994 report indicated that the 30 semester hours transferred among all institutions except Indiana Vocational Technical College (IVTC). Of the 10 general education courses identified for transfer by Indiana institutions, two (American History I and Philosophy I) had either never been taught at IVTC or had not been taught in many years. A subsequent study undertaken in 1995 to examine progress indicated that beginning in 1993-94 American History was offered in 5 of the 13 IVTC regions. The study also examined the level of transferability of the other eight general education courses with other Indiana institutions. This analysis indicated that Purdue University's West Lafayette and North Central campuses had made the most progress in developing transfer agreements with IVTC, accepting 27 of the 37 general education courses offered by IVTC. The state's other university systems have also worked out transfer agreements with individual IVTC campuses for the eight courses, as well as for American History and Philosophy, when and if that course is offered at IVTC. Finally, it was determined that seven of the eight mathematics courses offered at IVTC transferred to two or more public campuses. The study concluded that signif ant progress had been made toward fulfilling the legislative mandate nd that the Technical College had made significant progress in strengthening general education offerings. (KP)

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ED 388 359

TRANSFERRING GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT FROM INDIANA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS:

A PROGRESS REPORT

February 1, 1995

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JC 950 544

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Friday, February 10, 1995

DISCUSSION ITEM A: **Transferring General Education Credit from Indiana Vocational Technical College to Other Institutions: A Progress Report**

Staff Recommendation

For discussion only.

Background

In February, 1994, the Commission for Higher Education discussed a progress report on implementation of Public Law 19 from the Acts of 1992 (P.L. 19-1992), which mandated that "the public institutions shall jointly identify at least thirty (30) semester credit hours of comparable general education courses that are eligible to be earned by students to fulfill graduation requirements at each state educational institution."

While noting in the report one year ago that "substantial progress" had been made, the Commission also concluded that "more progress is required to fully incorporate credit earned at Indiana Vocational Technical College into the overall agreement."

The present update focuses on the extent to which general education courses offered by IVTC transfer to the public institutions. This update will report not only on the 30 (ten three-semester hour courses) hours of general education credit mandated by the General Assembly, but also on transfer of credit agreements -- developed voluntarily by some institutions and campuses -- that exceed the mandated 30 hours.

Supporting Document

"Transferring General Education Credit from Indiana Vocational Technical College to Other Institutions: A Progress Report," February 1, 1995

Introduction

Public Law 19 from the Acts of 1992 (P.L. 19-1992) mandates that "the public institutions shall jointly identify at least thirty (30) semester hours of comparable general education courses that are eligible to be earned by students to fulfill graduation requirements at each state educational institution." (NOTE: Since transfer of credit is always linked to a specific course or group of courses, this report will frequently refer to the 30 semester-hour, legislative mandate in terms of ten, three-semester hour courses.) In February, 1994, the Commission for Higher Education discussed a progress report on implementation of this law.

The progress report one year ago demonstrated that the ten, three-hour courses identified by the institutions in fulfillment of the legislative mandate transferred among all public institutions, with the exception of Indiana Vocational Technical College. After discussing the report, the Commission concluded that "substantial progress has been made by the institutions in accomplishing the objective of the law," and that the Commission was "impressed with the spirit of cooperation that prevails in this effort ..." However, the Commission also noted that "more progress is required to fully incorporate credit earned at Indiana Vocational Technical College into the overall agreement."

The purpose of this new progress report is to describe the current status of transferring credit from IVTC to the other public institutions. As a result of assessing progress made with respect to transferring the 30 semester hours or ten three-semester hour general education courses identified in response to P.L. 19-1992, it became apparent that some institutions and campuses had gone beyond what was called for in the legislation and established transfer agreements covering mathematics and other general education courses taught by IVTC. The progress report will also summarize these transfer agreements.

Extent to Which IVTC Teaches the Ten Mandated General Education Courses

During the early 1990s, and with the help of faculty advisors from the Indiana's four-year public institutions, the Technical College reviewed its general education courses and, where necessary, strengthened these courses. The review also ensured that the content of the general education courses would be the same throughout the IVTC system. For the most part, the Technical College revised existing courses, with the course titles and numbers changing in some cases (e.g. "Speech," ENG 103, became "Fundamentals of Public Speaking," COM 101), or with some courses being combined (e.g. "Physics I" and "Physics I Lab" became "Physics").

A few new general education courses were added, and these will be discussed later in this report. The revised general education courses were offered for the first time in 1992-93.

Of the ten general education courses that the institutions identified for transfer in response to the law (P.L. 19-1992) passed by the General Assembly almost three years ago, the Technical College has historically offered eight of these courses (see Table 1).

Table 1

MANDATED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES
COMMONLY TAUGHT BY IVTC

English Composition I
English Composition II
Speech I
American Government I
Psychology I
Sociology I
Biology I
Computer Literacy I

(NOTE: For the sake of simplicity, generic course titles are used, e.g. "English Composition I", are used to refer to mandated general education courses rather than the actual course number and title, e.g. ENG 111, "English Composition: Strategies for Inquiry," that is found in the IVTC catalog.)

With the exception of American Government I, which was offered in eight IVTC regions, all of the courses in Table 1 have been offered in all thirteen IVTC regions.

Two of the ten general education courses identified as a result of the legislative mandate had either never been taught by IVTC or had not been taught in many years (see Table 2).

Table 2

MANDATED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES
NOT COMMONLY TAUGHT BY IVTC

American History I
Philosophy I

American History I was offered by IVTC for the first time in 1993-94. The course is now being offered in five of the thirteen IVTC regions during the current academic year.

Philosophy I has never been and is not currently being offered by the Technical College, although the course appears in the list of general education courses identified in the 1994-96 College catalog.

Transfer of the Eight Mandated Courses That IVTC Commonly Teaches

For purposes of this analysis, attention is now focused on the eight mandated general education courses that are commonly taught by the Technical College. A summary of each institution's position regarding transfer of IVTC credit follows.

Indiana University

Basic Approach. Indiana University's position with respect to transfer of IVTC general education credit may be summarized by two statements that were included in the material provided by the University:

1. "Each Indiana University campus has entered [into] agreements with particular IVTC campuses for transfer of credit."

2. "Any credit accepted as part of a local agreement is also accepted at all the other IU campuses."

The following example is provided to illustrate how the two principles work together. Under the first principle, IU-Northwest has reached an agreement with IVTC-Gary whereby IU-Northwest will accept for transfer the credit earned by a student who takes Biology I at the Gary campus of IVTC. By virtue of the second principle, the IVTC-Gary student can then transfer the credit for Biology I to IU-Bloomington. However, a student who takes Biology I at IVTC-Columbus cannot transfer the credit earned for that course to IU-Bloomington because IU-Bloomington and IVTC-Columbus do not presently have a transfer agreement for Biology I.

Local Transfer Agreements. The extent to which local transfer of credit agreements have been worked out varies among the seven IU campuses (see Table 3).

Table 3

NUMBER OF MANDATED COURSES COMMONLY TAUGHT
BY IVTC THAT TRANSFER TO INDIANA UNIVERSITY

IU-East	7
IU-Kokomo	7
IU-Northwest	7
IU-South Bend	6
IUPUI	5
IU-Bloomington	4
IU-Southeast	3

Among the eight mandated general education courses commonly taught by IVTC, the courses that transfer most often among IU campuses are Psychology I, Sociology I (all seven IU campuses) and Speech I (six campuses); the course that transfers least often is American Government I (two IU campuses).

Continuing Discussions. Indiana University and the Technical College are continuing their discussions about transfer of credit, and the University expects that eventually transfer agreements will be reached between each IU campus and the local IVTC campus regarding all eight of the mandated general education courses commonly taught by IVTC.

After these agreements have been reached, Indiana University will then turn attention to developing a mechanism by which general education courses taught in IVTC regions that are not proximate to an IU campus (Lafayette, Muncie, Terre Haute, Madison, and Evansville) can transfer, since these IVTC campuses are not included in the agreements that have been reached thus far.

Purdue University

Agreements have been reached for each of the four Purdue University campuses that cover most of the mandated courses that are commonly taught by IVTC (see Table 4).

Table 4

NUMBER OF MANDATED COURSES COMMONLY TAUGHT
BY IVTC THAT TRANSFER TO PURDUE

Purdue-West Lafayette	7
Purdue-Calumet	7
Purdue-North Central	7
IPFW	6

For the West Lafayette, Calumet, and North Central campuses, the only one of the eight mandated general education courses, for which IVTC credit is not accepted at the present time, is Political Science I. IVTC-Gary and IVTC-Lafayette currently do not teach Political Science I, and Purdue University has indicated that it would prefer that a course actually be taught in those regions before a transfer of credit agreement is developed.

At the Fort Wayne campus, the two mandated general education courses, for which IVTC credit is not currently accepted, are English Composition I and English Composition II, both of which are the academic responsibility of Indiana University.

Purdue University has indicated that for the West Lafayette, Calumet, and North Central campuses, credit will be accepted for the general education courses identified in Table 4 from any IVTC site throughout the state. The transfer agreement for the IPFW campus, applies at the present time only to IVTC-Ft. Wayne, although "consideration is being given to extending this agreement to other IVTC campuses."

Ball State University

Ball State has indicated that the University "has worked out or is in the process of working out agreements for accepting credit for courses offered by IVTC Region 6 [Muncie]." At the present time, the Commission understands that Ball State and IVTC have reached transfer agreements for five of the eight mandated general education courses that are commonly taught by IVTC. Discussions are still taking place with respect to English Composition II, Speech I, and Biology I, and the University expects that "agreements will be reached for all of the common core courses taught in this region by Spring, 1995."

Ball State has also indicated that "irrespective of the transfer-of-credit agreements worked out with IVTC Region 6 [Muncie], Ball State will also accept credit for courses taken at any other IVTC campus that has worked out an agreement whereby the local public university will accept credit for those courses." This policy is the same policy that the University embraced in the February, 1994 progress report to the Commission.

Indiana State University

Indiana State has indicated that it will accept all eight of the commonly taught mandated courses from IVTC-Terre Haute. This agreement also extends to all other IVTC regions, assuming that the courses taught at other IVTC campuses "are based on statewide criteria for content, instructor qualifications, etc." It is the Commission's understanding that the Technical College has confirmed ISU's assumption, and therefore the University will accept credit from all other IVTC regions.

University of Southern Indiana
Vincennes University

Both the University of Southern Indiana and Vincennes University have indicated, as they both did one year ago, that they will accept credit for all eight of the mandated general education courses commonly taught by IVTC from any IVTC site.

Independent Institutions

On behalf of the state's independent institutions, Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) reports that many of the association's member colleges and universities have developed agreements with IVTC campuses that result in transfer of IVTC general education credit. ICI reports that the agreements range from generic accords, which result in transferring blocks (often large) of IVTC credit, to a course-by-course approach. According to ICI, most agreements are generic in nature rather than on a course-by-course basis.

Transfer of the Two Mandated Courses That Are Not Commonly Taught by IVTC

Philosophy I. As indicated previously, Philosophy I has never been and is not currently being offered in any IVTC region in the state. The Technical College reports that the course was added to the College's array of general education offerings because it was identified as one of the ten transfer courses in response to the mandate embodied in P.L. 19-1992.

On the basis of the course outline (including the minimum qualifications of faculty who would teach the course) that has been developed by IVTC and the university faculty advisors who worked with the College, three institutions -- Indiana State University, the University of Southern Indiana, and Vincennes University -- have agreed to accept IVTC credit if and when Philosophy I is offered by the Technical College.

American History I. American History I is the other of the mandated general education courses that has not been commonly taught by IVTC. In fact, the course was only offered for the first time in 1993-94. Five of the thirteen IVTC regions have offered the course thus far.

Indiana State University, the University of Southern Indiana, and Vincennes University will accept credit for American History I from any IVTC site in the state.

Two Indiana University campuses (IU-South Bend and IU-Kokomo) will accept transfer credit for American History I if offered at the IVTC South Bend and Kokomo campuses, respectively. Because the transfer of credit has been accepted by the local Indiana University campus, an IVTC-South Bend or IVTC-Kokomo student taking American History I can transfer the credit earned at either of those campuses to any campus in the IU system.

One Purdue campus, IPFW, will accept credit for American History I at IVTC-Ft. Wayne. Since American History I is an academic responsibility of Indiana University at the IPFW campus, the transfer agreement should allow an IVTC-Ft. Wayne student to transfer credit for American History I to any IU campus.

Transfer of Mathematics Courses Taught by IVTC

Eight mathematics courses are listed among the general education courses in the IVTC catalog. Seven of these courses will transfer to two or more public campuses; the eighth course, "Contemporary College Mathematics", does not transfer to any public institution.

At the present time, two campuses in the state -- Purdue-West Lafayette and Purdue-North Central -- will accept credit for seven of the eight mathematics courses taught by IVTC. This agreement applies to any IVTC site throughout the state (See Table 5).

Table 5

MATH COURSES TRANSFERRING TO PURDUE WEST LAFAYETTE AND NORTH CENTRAL CAMPUSES FROM ANY IVTC SITE

Intermediate Algebra
Statistics
Geometry-Trigonometry
Algebra/Trigonometry I
Algebra/Trigonometry II
Finite Math
Brief Calculus

Two other campuses -- Purdue-Calumet and IU-Northwest -- will accept credit for the same seven courses offered at IVTC-Gary, although this agreement does not extend at the present time to other IVTC campuses.

Indiana State University will accept credit for six IVTC mathematics courses offered by IVTC-Terre Haute, and is prepared to accept credit from any other IVTC campus "if given the assurance that the courses descriptions and academic criteria -- faculty credentials, course objectives, suggested texts, and student prerequisites -- were the same at all IVTC sites as they are at the Wabash Valley IVTC." The Commission understands that the Technical College has given ISU the needed assurance, and therefore, the University will accept credit from all IVTC regions.

The IUPUI campus is prepared to accept credit for five IVTC mathematics courses.

The University of Southern Indiana and Vincennes University are currently reviewing IVTC mathematics courses for potential transfer of credit.

Other IVTC General Education Courses That Transfer

With the exception of three Purdue University campuses, little of the remaining general education coursework offered by the Technical College will transfer, although all other public institutions and campuses are reviewing IVTC courses for possible transfer.

Purdue-West Lafayette, Purdue-Calumet, and Purdue-North Central have each agreed to accept credit for ten additional general education courses offered by the Technical College (see Table 6).

Table 6

ADDITIONAL IVTC GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES
TRANSFERRING TO PURDUE
WEST LAFAYETTE, CALUMET, AND NORTH CENTRAL CAMPUSES

Anatomy and Physiology I
Anatomy and Physiology II
General Microbiology

Chemistry I
Chemistry II

Physics I
Physics II

Principles of Macroeconomics
Principles of Microeconomics

Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

Besides these ten courses, Purdue-West Lafayette and Purdue-North Central will also accept credit for three additional IVTC courses: Economics Fundamentals, Technical Writing, and Physical Science. The West Lafayette and North Central campuses will accept credit for these thirteen courses from any IVTC site in the state.

The Purdue-Calumet campus will also accept credit for Advanced Human Physiology.

Summary

This progress report has described transfer of credit opportunities for IVTC general education courses in three areas: (1) the ten general education courses (eight commonly taught by IVTC, two not) that the institutions identified in response to the legislative mandate embodied in P.L. 19-1992; (2) IVTC mathematics courses, for which institutions have voluntarily developed transfer of credit agreements with the Technical College; and (3) all remaining IVTC general education courses, for which institutions have voluntarily developed transfer of credit agreements with the Technical College.

Purdue-West Lafayette and Purdue-North Central -- the two campuses that have made the most progress in systematically reviewing all IVTC general education courses and establishing transfer agreements that extend statewide to all IVTC sites -- will transfer credit for a total of 27 of the 37 general education courses offered in five areas by the Technical College (see Table 7; for a list of the specific courses, see Appendix).

Table 7

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES OFFERED BY IVTC BY GROUP

Communications (5 Courses)
Social Science (7 Courses)
Humanities (6 Courses)
Mathematics (8 Courses)
Life and Physical Sciences (11 Courses)

The 37 general education courses offered by IVTC do not include the 21 "basic skills advancement courses," which do not count toward satisfying technical certificate or associate degree requirements established by the College. However, the 37 general education courses do include three new courses -- American History I, American History II, and Philosophy I. American History I was taught for the first time in 1993-94, and has been offered in five IVTC regions. American History II was also taught for the first time in 1993-94 in two regions, while Philosophy I has never been offered by the College.

Conclusions

1. Progress continues to be made by the institutions toward fulfilling the legislative mandate of P. L. 19-1992 by reaching more agreements to transfer IVTC courses.

2. The Commission continues to be impressed with the spirit of cooperation that prevails in this effort and concludes that further progress toward the objective of fulfilling the legislative mandate is likely.

3. Because some transfer of credit agreements with IVTC are not yet complete, the net effect from a statewide perspective or the perspective of students in some regions may be confusing.

4. Information on transfer of credit opportunities should be made available to IVTC students and potential students through a variety of mechanisms, including ICPAC, so that IVTC students will be informed of where the best opportunities for transferring of credit exist in Indiana.

5. By voluntarily extending transfer of credit agreements with IVTC to include mathematics and other general education courses, the institutions have significantly extended student access to and choice among instructional offerings.

6. Purdue University has made the most progress of any institution in systematically reviewing all IVTC general education courses and establishing transfer agreements that extend statewide to all IVTC sites.

7. The Technical College has made significant progress in strengthening its general education offerings.

8. Most IVTC general education courses appear to be closely related to technical coursework and programs offered by the College.

9. It is unclear how the three new general education courses recently added -- American History I, American History II, and Philosophy I -- are consistent with the principle that the state has understood to guide development of general education courses at the Technical College: the College should only offer those general education courses that prepare students to successfully complete technical or occupational coursework or programs offered by the College.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES LISTED IN THE 1994-96 IVTC CATALOG

Shading signifies a new course, that is, the course did not appear in the 1992-94 catalog and it represents a new content area.

Course #	Course Title	Credits
	COMMUNICATIONS	
ENG 111	English Composition: Strategies for Inquiry	3
ENG 112	Exposition and Persuasion	3
ENG 211	Technical Writing	3
COM 101	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
COM 102	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	3
	SOCIAL SCIENCES	
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
SOC 111	Introduction to Sociology	3
ECN 101	Economics Fundamentals	3
ECN 201	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECN 202	Principles of Microeconomics	3
HST 101	Survey of American History I	3
HST 102	Survey of American History II	3
POL 101	Introduction to American Government and Politics	3
PSY 201	Life Span Development	3
	HUMANITIES	
ETH 101	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHL 101	Introduction to Philosophy	3
ARH 101	Art History I	3
ARH 102	Art History II	3
	MATHEMATICS	
MAT 110	Contemporary College Mathematics	3
MAT 111	Intermediate Algebra	3
MAT 115	Statistics	3
MAT 121	Geometry/Trigonometry	3
MAT 131	Algebra/Trigonometry	3
MAT 132	Algebra/Trigonometry II	3
MAT 135	Finite Math	3
MAT 201	Brief Calculus	3

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GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES LISTED IN THE 1994-96 IVTC CATALOG (Cont.)

Shading signifies a new course, that is, the course did not appear in the 1992-94 catalog and it represents a new content area.

Course #	Course Title	Credits
	LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
SCI 111	Physical Science	3
PHY 101	Physics I	4
PHY 102	Physics II	4
ANP 101	Anatomy & Physiology I	3
ANP 102	Anatomy & Physiology II	3
ANP 201	Advanced Human Physiology	4
CHM 101	Chemistry I	3
CHM 102	Chemistry II	3
BIO 101	Introductory Biology	3
BIO 111	General Microbiology	3
PHY 110	Technical Physics	4